



County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Social Services

Bryce Yokomizo
Director

July 29, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryce Yokomizo", is written over the "FROM:" line.

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: "A WINDOW ON WELFARE REFORM: EARLY IMPACTS ON FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY"

Attached is the CalWORKs evaluation report, "A Window on Welfare Reform: Early Impacts on Families and Communities in Los Angeles County." This report was produced for the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) by the Service Integration Branch (SIB) of the County Chief Administrative Office. It covers the impact of welfare reform on families and communities in the first twenty-one months (January 1998 to October 1999) of CalWORKs' implementation in the County.

The report follows guidelines established in the CalWORKs Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan approved by your Board on April 14, 1998, to meet the evaluation goals of the Welfare-to-Work Act of 1997 (AB 1542). By documenting the trends in the five years preceding welfare reform and the two years following local implementation, this report provides a baseline for future evaluations.

Key findings in the report show that:

- Between March 1995 to October 1999, there was a 31 percent decline in the welfare caseload.
- Between April 1998 and October 1999, there was an 18 percent increase in single-parent families who had been on aid for eight or more years.
- While employment rates among aided adults did not show a substantial increase since April 1998, participation in the welfare-to-work programs did increase substantially.

Each Supervisor
July 29, 2002
Page 2

- The number of two-parent families in extreme poverty declined by two percent while at the same time the number of single-parent families in extreme poverty increased by one percent.
- While 23 percent of cases that left CalWORKs in April 1998 returned within six months, only 18 percent of those leaving CalWORKs in April 1999 returned within six months.

This report will be made available to the public on the Department's website in early August 2002.

BY:bf

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors